

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06665 01 OF 02 091842Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 SS-15 /032 W
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 6665

STATE FOR TAYLOR, EB
USDA FOR WILHELM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: SECRETARY BERGLAND'S SPEECH TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

FOLLOWING DRAFT TEXT OF SECRETARY BERGLAND'S ADDRESS TO MANILA
SESSION OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IS SUBMITTED FOR COMMENT AND
CLEARANCE. PLEASE NOTE SECTION CIEC TO BE DRAFTED BY WASHINGTON

1. IT AN HONOR TO REPRESENT MY COUNTRY AT THIS SESSION
OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.

2. I KNOW ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY JOIN ME IN PAYING TRIBUTE
TO SAYED MAREI--OUR FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL WITHOUT
WHOSE LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO
BRING OUR HOPES AND PLANS TO THIS SESSION. HIS GREAT WORK
WILL CONTINUE--I KNOW--UNDER OUR NEW PRESIDENT--SECRETARY
TANCO--WHOSE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE IN HIS OWN
COUNTRY HAS BEEN WIDELY RECOGNIZED.

3. THIS IS THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL. I NEED NOT REMIND YOU OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS
MEETING. THE USEFULNESS OF THIS SESSION MAY WELL DETERMINE
THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. I HAVE COME HERE TO
CONTRIBUTE WHAT I CAN TO MAKE THIS COUNCIL A SUCCESS.

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4. AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER HAS REVIEWED
THE MAJOR ISSUES CURRENTLY ON THE NORTHER-SOUTH AGENDA AND
BEGUN TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN SET OF PRIORITIES, IT HAS FOUND
ONE ISSUE SLIGHTED IN ALL THE TALK ABOUT A NEW INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC ORDER. THE ISSUE HAS VARIOUS NAMES: THE "ABSOLUTE
POVERTY" PROBLEM, THE PROBLEM OF "BASIC HUMAN NEEDS,Z THE

PROBLEM OF "THE FORGOTTEN FORTY PERCENT." WHATEVER WE CHOOSE TO CALL IT, IT IS THE PROBLEM OF THOSE ONE BILLION PERSONS LIVING AT THE RAZOR'S EDGE OF EXISTENCE. AS THE PRESIDENT RECENTLY NOTED, MOST NATIONS SHARE OUR FAITH THAT, IN THE LONGER RUN, EXPANDED TRADE WILL BEST HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO HELP THEMSELVES. BUT THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER, DISEASE, HIGH INFANT MORTALITY, ILLITERACY AND STUNTED "LIFT CHANCES" CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO AWAIT A LONGER-RUN ANSWER.

5. IF OUR NATIONS DID NOT HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS OF MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DECADES, PERHAPS WE COULD EXCUSE OURSELVES FROM MAKING ANY SPECIAL EFFORT TO OVERCOME THE SO-CALLED "ABSOLUTE POVERTY" PROBLEM.

6. BUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO CONSTRUCT A WORKABLE APPROACH TO THE RESOLUTION OF THIS ACUTE POVERTY PROBLEM IS NOW WITHIN OUR GRASP. WHAT IS MISSING IS THE JOINT WILLINGNESS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IS ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS AS WELL AS NATION-STATES, AND THAT "EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY" FOR A RICHER AND MORE MEANING-FULL LIFE ONLY MAKES SENSE AS IT APPLIES TO PEOPLE. WE HERE TODAY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS SUCH WILLINGNESS FOR WE SHARE A COMMON OBJECTIVE--THAT OF ELIMINATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

7. I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SHARES MY BELIEF THAT ALL
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NATIONS--DESPITE DIFFERENCES IN CULTURE, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, OR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT--HAVE A COMMON GOAL OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE FOOD FOR OUR WORLD'S POPULATION. UNLESS THIS GOAL CAN BE ACHIEVED, AND UNLESS WE, AS NATIONS WORKING TOGETHER, CAN INSURE AN ADEQUATE DIET FOR ALL PEOPLE, OUR OTHER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GOALS BECOME MEANINGLESS AND WILL NEVER BE ACHIEVED. A WORLD WITH MILLIONS OF HUNGRY PEOPLE CAN NEVER BE A WORLD OF PEACE AND PROGRESS.

8. THUS, FOOD MUST BE AN AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, NOT INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT, FOOD MUST REPRESENT THE BEST USE OF OUR NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMITMENTS AND MUST NOT BE REGARDS AS A WEAPON OR AS AN ISSUE WHICH DIVIDES US IN EITHER PURPOSE OR ACTION.

8. I AM SURE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WISHES THE DELEGATES TO THIS WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WELL IN THEIR DELIBERATIONS, KNOWING THAT ALL OF YOU AND YOUR LEADERS SHARE OUR COMMITMENT TO A COMMON TASK.

10. THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IS THE HIGHEST POLITICAL BODY DEALING WITH FOOD PROBLEMS. IT IS A FORUM WHERE ISSUES CAN BE DISCUSSED, PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED, AND COURSE OF ACTION RECOMMENDED TO THE VARIOUS APPROPRIATE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES FOR DECISIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION.

11. THIS COUNCIL SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE THE ISSUES OF MALNUTRITION, HUNGER, AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CAN BE DISCUSSED OPENLY AND FRANKLY WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS OR LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES COMES TO THIS CONFERENCE.

12. THE ATTENTION OF THIS COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO ELIMINATE MALNUTRITION AND HUNGER. THE HIGH FOOD PRICES OF 1972-74 ARE NO LONGER WITH US. IN THE LAST UNCLASSIFIED

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YEAR GRAIN STOCKS HAVE INCREASED RAPIDLY AND GRAIN EXPORT PRICES HAVE FALLEN SHARPLY. BUT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE ARE STILL MALNOURISHED AND, IN THIS SENSE, THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS IS STILL WITH US.

13. THIS MEANS THAT THE RECENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION IN THE POOREST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT SLACKEN. INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THESE COUNTRIES IS ESSENTIAL. BUT SERIOUS EFFORTS MUST ALSO BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT FOOD ACTUALLY REACHES THE MALNOURISHED SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION.

14. (WASHINGTON TO DRAFT PARAGRAPH ABOUT CONCLUSIONS OF CIEC IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AREAS.)
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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 SS-15 /032 W
-----100457Z 012966 /15/41

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5225
INFO USDA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 HONG KONG 6665

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

STATE FOR TAYLOR, EB
USDA FOR WILHELM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: SECRETARY BERGLAND'S SPEECH TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

15. THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO EFFORTS TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. SINCE THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974, U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE HAS FOCUSED ON HELPING THE POOR MAJORITY IN THE POOREST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, MORE THAN HALF OF U.S. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION. THE U.S. BILATERAL AID PROGRAM AWAITING FINAL ACTION BY THE CONGRESS CALLS FOR OVER \$550 MILLION IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. ALSO, THE U.S. PLANS TO RATIFY THE FIFTH REPLENISHMENT OF THE WORLD BANKS'S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. THE U.S. SHARE WILL BE \$880 MILLION A YEAR, AND IDA DISBURSES ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF ITS FUNDS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PROJECTS IN THE MOST NEEDY COUNTRIES. FINALLY, THE U.S. WILL BE CONTRIBUTING \$200 MILLION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

16. INCREASING PRODUCTION IS CENTRAL TO LONG-TERM WORLD FOOD
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SECURITY. BUT FOOD SECURITY ALSO REQUIRES ASSURANCE THAT ADEQUATE SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT OF SHORTFALLS IN PRODUCTION CAUSED BY WEATHER OR OTHER ADVERSE EVENTS. SUPPLIES SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO PREVENT EXTREME SWINGS IN PRICES WHICH CREATE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP FOR THE POOR IN ALL NATIONS AND FOR ALMOST ALL IN POOR NATIONS.

17. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE WORLD FOOD SECURITY, THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY TAKEN ACTION UNDER CURRENT AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A FOODGRAIN RESERVE TO BE ACCUMULATED DURING THE CURRENT PERIOD OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES AND LOW PRICES FOR RETURN TO THE MARKET DURING PERIODS OF SHORT SUPPLIES AND HIGH PRICES. WE COMMEND THE SIMILAR ACTIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHERS.

18. BUT FOOD SECURITY IS NOT THE SOLE OBLIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES. THE WORLD SHOULD NOT WANT ITS FOOD SECURITY TO REST IN THE HANDS OF ONE COUNTRY. RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORLD FOOD SECURITY MUST BE WIDELY SHARED. THEREFORE THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT A SPECIAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL CAN BE CONVENED SOON. THIS MEETING WOULD ATTEMPT TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A COORDINATED SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY-HELD RESERVE STOCKS. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD INCLUDE: (1) A RESERVE STOCK MECHANISM DESIGNED TO REDUCE WIDE FLUCTUATIONS AROUND THE LONG-RUN TREND IN MARKET PRICES. (2) SHARING THE COST OF RESERVE STOCKS AMONG BOTH EXPORTING AND IMPORTING NATIONS. THE SHARE OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE BORNE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. AND (3) TRADE LIBERALIZATION FOR GRAINS WHICH WOULD HELP SMOOTH THE PATH TOWARDS ADJUSTMENTS IN CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN TIMES OF EXTREME SURPLUS AND SCARCITY AND WOULD PROVIDE MAXIMUM INCENTIVE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY PRODUCERS.

19. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE
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MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SCHEME FOR ENSURING WORLD FOOD SECURITY. BUT WE MUST RESOLVE TO FIND MEANS TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES. THE WORLD NEED NOT SUFFER ONCE AGAIN THE HARDSHIPS OF THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS OF 1972-74 PROVIDED THAT WE CAN FIND THE WILL AND THE WISDOM TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY IN WHICH THE BURDENS OF MAINTAINING THE SYSTEM ARE EQUITABLY SHARED. WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT EASING OF SUPPLIES TO INSURE THAT WE DO NOT MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY.

20. IN ADDITION TO REDUCING WIDE FLUCTUATIONS IN COMMERCIAL PRICES AND ENSURING THAT GRAIN IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE IN COMMERCIAL MARKETS, THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THAT FOOD AID MUST PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING MANY NATIONS TO MEET BASIC FOOD REQUIREMENTS.

21. THE U.S. REGARDS FOOD AID AS ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT. FOOD AID SHOULD BE PRIMARILY AN INSTRUMENT OF DEVELOPMENT, NOT SURPLUS DISPOSAL. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ITS OWN FOOD AID PROGRAM, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOW PREPARING STEPS WHICH WOULD: (A) ENSURE THAT ITS TOTAL LEVEL OF FOOD AID WILL BE MAINTAINED AS ITS PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS, EVEN IN YEARS WHEN SUPPLIES ARE TIGHT. (B) MAKE GREATER USE OF FOOD AID AS A DEVELOPMENTAL TOOL BY ENTERING INTO MULTI-YEAR FOOD AID ARRANGEMENTS IN SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND BY USING THE FUNDS

GENERATED UNDER OTHER CONCESSIONARY FOOD AND PROGRAMS FOR AGREED
UPON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. (C) CONTINUE TO PROVIDE 75 PERCENT
OF U.S. FOOD AID TO THE POOREST NATIONS. (D) ESTABLISH A
SPECIAL RESERVES TO BE USED TO INSURE THAT FOOD AID COMMIT-
MENTS WILL BE MET UNDER TIGHT SUPPLY CONDITIONS.

22. ALL OF THESE POLICY INITIALIVES ARE NOW BEFORE THE U.S.
CONGRESS. I SHOULD ADD THAT THE U.S. HAS RECENTLY AGREED TO
CONTRIBUTE UP TO 125,000 TONS TO THE EMERGENCY RESERVE OR
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THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMM

22. THESE ARE THE POLICY INITIATIVES WHICH THE UNITED STATES
HAS TAKEN. I MENTION THEM TO YOU NOW TO DEMONSTRATE OUR
COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ELIMINATE HUNGER
AND MALNUTRITION. WE INVITE OTHER NATIONS TO JOIN WITH US
IN THE OTHER APPROPRIATE FORA TO MOVE WITH DISPATCH ON THE
ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, PRICE STABILIZATION AND
FOOD AID.

23. THIS MEETING OF MINISTERS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WHICH
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISUES. WE MUST FULFILL OUR OBLIGATIONS
TO THE HUNGRY OF THIS WORLD. WE MUST INSTILL A SENSE OF
RENEWED DIDICATION AND COMMON COMMITMENT SO THAT NATIONAL
GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CAN STRENGTHEN
THEIR EFFORTS TO SOLVE THIS MOST FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM OF MANKIND.
WEUST SET FORTH THE GUIDELINES FOR CONCERTED EFFORT BY ALL
TO ELIMINATE HUNGER FROM OUR WORLD.

24. IN SUMMARY, I BELIEVE WE AS REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS
MUST RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO THE HIGH GOALS SET FORTH BY THE
WORLD FOOD CONFERNCE OF 1974 AND INSURE THAT THE INTERATIONAL
COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SERVE THEM
DIRECT THEIR MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS.

25. I TRUST THAT DURING THIS SESSION THIS COUNCIL WILL
DEDICATE ITSELF TO THIS PURPOSE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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